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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,789	01/26/2004	Nhan Xuan Bui	TUC920030152US1	2600
7590	02/28/2006		EXAMINER	
Allen K. Bates IBM Corporation Intellectual Property Law 9000 South Rita Road Tucson, AZ 85744			NGUYEN, JOHN QUOC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3654	
			DATE MAILED: 02/28/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/765,789	BUI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John Q. Nguyen	3654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-11,18-22,27-31,33 and 35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,6,12,17,23,24,26,32 and 34 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-5,13-16 and 25 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/26/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-6, 12-17, 23-26, 32, 34, in the reply filed on 1/9/06 is acknowledged.

Claims 7-11, 18-22, 27-31, 33, 35 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 1/9/06.

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: figures 6A and 6B are not separately described in the Brief Description. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 4,15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 4 and 15, it is not clear how the first and second current directions are obtained.

All claims should be revised carefully to correct all other deficiencies similar to the ones noted above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Maddaloni (US-4341364).

Claims 1, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by JP 4-76845.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 17, 23, 24, 26, 32, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maddaloni (US-4341364) in view of applicant's admitted prior art. The admitted prior art discussed on pages 1-2 of the specification discloses tape libraries having one or more tape drives and a periodic timer/check/signal to periodically examine the CPU to detect drive problems. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide the apparatus of Maddaloni with a periodic check/signal to periodically check for normal operation or tape breakage to reduce damage to the tape/tape drive system or to provide the apparatus as part of a tape library as taught by the admitted prior art. Hall sensors are old and well known in the art and Official notice is hereby taken of such; therefore, the use of Hall sensors are deemed inherent in Maddaloni or, alternatively, obvious to detect the rotation of the reels.

Claims 6, 17, 23, 24, 26, 32, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 4-76845 in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

The admitted prior art discussed on pages 1-2 of the specification discloses tape libraries having one or more tape drives and a periodic timer/check/signal to periodically examine the CPU to detect drive problems. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide the apparatus of JP 4-76845 with a periodic check/signal to periodically check for normal operation or tape breakage to reduce damage to the tape/tape drive system or to provide the apparatus as part of a tape library as taught by the admitted prior art. Hall sensors are old and well known in the art and Official notice is hereby taken of such; therefore, the use of Hall sensors are deemed inherent in JP 4-76845 or, alternatively, obvious to detect the rotation of the reels.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-5, 13-16, 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6952. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and

Friday, from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Matecki, can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John Q. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3654